

**KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME -
STEERING GROUP – 27 FEBRUARY 2018
CARS PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Following the Steering Group's agreement at the last meeting to re-allocate some additional funding within the budget headings to cover the small over-spend in the Public Realm budget, the overall CARS financial budget remains on track. The only outstanding items for payment under the current budget are two retention payments under the Small Grants Scheme, the remaining invoice for the wall restoration in Reform Street under Training, the remaining invoice for DFK's mural under Public Realm and known Administration costs, including the CARS Legacy elements. All require to be settled by 31 March 2018.

Historic Environment Scotland are content with the Quarterly Claims made to date for reimbursement of their funding although this is now nearing the maximum of their financial grant award. The Project Officer is currently reviewing the overall project costs and meeting with Finance to finalise budget payments and all expenditure/income through the scheme.

Following the matter being raised at our last meeting, the initial response from Finance is that only the VAT exclusive amount has been charged to the Kirriemuir CARS ledger codes. This may result in additional funds being available as CARS has been including VAT as a grant eligible item for project costs (where the recipient is not VAT registered) and on other training invoices submitted. The Project Officer is to meet later this week with Finance regarding the VAT issue and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

WALL RESTORATION

As notified at the last meeting, Frew Conservation Ltd. has provided a quote for re-pointing of the north west wall in Reform Street car park. The proposed works, amounting to a cost of £29,984 including VAT, would be undertaken as a three week training programme over a total of five weeks on site. The project, for which additional funding of £30,000 was approved by Historic Environment Scotland, is to be delivered by pupils of Webster's High School under the same training and supervision package as that recently completed at the south west wall, behind the Bank of Scotland. Given the limited timescales for working with lime mortars, it is anticipated that the works could only be started when weather conditions improve and would most likely be completed nearer to the end of March.

At the time of writing, confirmation of the school's participation in the training project is still to be agreed with the Training provider. It is understood however that the career orientated sessions alongside the wall repair training completed to date at the other car park wall has been a great

opportunity for those pupils wishing to pursue their interest in stonemasonry, the building conservation and repair sector or for the construction industry in general.

The proposed project is now however currently behind schedule due to slight delays in confirming ownership and agreeing participation with joint owners, and in arranging participation with the school. This has obvious implications for the proposed erection of the Mosaic Mural at this location.

LEGACY PLAN

As previously agreed, the creation of a photographic record of properties within the Kirriemuir Conservation Area will provide a basis for monitoring future changes within the area and also serve as a resource for promotion of Kirriemuir, the built heritage of Angus and the CARS project more generally.

Since the initial meeting of our working group on 15 January, we have been advised that due to the extent of the photographic work required, this cannot now unfortunately be undertaken in-house and that consideration should be given to engaging a professional photographer to carry out the survey work. This obviously raises concerns that engaging a photographer for this work might require a tendering process and further delay, as well as incurring a considerable cost. However, a specification for the photographic record has been prepared and sent out to five local photographers for response by Thursday 22 February, with the project work to be undertaken and invoiced for by end-March. Other requirements are stated in relation to format, permissions (copyright of images for Angus Council's sole use), timescale etc. An update on this will be given at the meeting.

The images will be used across a variety of channels including Facebook, Twitter and websites, and in published documentation about the Kirriemuir CARS project and the work of Angus Council's Planning team more generally.

The photographic record will focus on –

- 1 – CARS project buildings and key buildings/views (approx. 150 images);
- 2 - In addition to the above, properties within the town centre priority area for funding (approx. 200 additional)
- 3 – All remaining properties within the Conservation Area boundary.

This will also be integrated into the StoryMap of the CARS project, highlighting the grant aided restoration works undertaken both in terms of buildings and public areas throughout the town centre. Given that CARS project celebratory event will not take place until April, it is hoped that the StoryMap exercise will be completed and available to view on that day. Any further comments or views from Steering Group Members as to a format for this event would be welcomed.

PROPOSED BUS SHELTER

An update on the above will be given at the meeting.